

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9031

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE A-1218 (B) STATE A-1219 (C) STATE 91863

FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FISH & WIDLLEFE SERVICE, DIVISION
OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, T.L. GROSZ, & FEDERAL WILDLIFE PERMIT OFFICE

1. COPY REFAIR A PROVIDED TO APPROPRIATE LIBERIAN AUTHORITY (SEE
PARA 2 BELOW). IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON REFAIR,
AUTHORITY PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE
URGENCY FOR WILDLIFE PROTECTION THROUGH REGULATIONS IN LIBERIA"
WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO USFWS FEDERAL WILDLIFE PERMIT OFFICE.

2. RE REFAIR B AND REFTTEL C, NAME, TITLE, AND ADDRESS OF LIBERIAN
OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE PERMITS FOR EXPORT/IMPORT OF WILD-
LIFE AND PLANTS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: ALEXANDER
L. PEAL, HEAD WILDLIFE SECTION, FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
P.O. BOX 3010, MONROVIA, LIBERIA. U.S. WILDLIFE PERMIT OFFICE
MAY CONTACT MR. PEAL DIRECTLY. CHANGE IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR
ISSUANCE OF PERMITS DUE TO REPEAL IN NOVEMBER 1976 OF VARIOUS
SECTIONS OF LIBERIA'S NATIONAL RESOURCES LAW AND SIMULTANEOUS
PASSAGE OF ACT CREATING FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WHICH
INCLUDES PROVISION FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF PLANTS
AND OTHER WILDLIFE. COPY OF ACT BEING POUCHED TO FEDERAL WILDLIFE
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PERMIT OFFICE.

3. ACT CREATING FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FDA) DOES NOT
INCLUDE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR CONTROLLING IMPORT AND EXPORT
OF WILDLIFE, AND WILDLIFE SECTION OF FDA HAS NO FORMAL PUBLISHED
GUIDELINES.

4. ACCORDING TO PEAL OF FDA'S WILDLIFE SECTION, ONLY WILDLIFE CURRENTLY LEGALLY EXPORTABLE IS LIBERIA'S RICE BIRD. PEAL IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL EXPORT OF IVORY AND SKINS TAKEN FROM ANIMALS WHICH DIE FROM OTHER THAN NATURAL CAUSES. NO HUNTING LICENSES ARE GRANTED IN LIBERIA, BUT ENFORCEMENT NOT POSSIBLE WITH EXISTING MANPOWER. PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF WRITTEN REGULATIONS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION AMONG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & TRANSPORTATION; MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURA, AFFAIRS & TOURISM; AND FDA AS TO WHO CONTROL EXPORT OF IVORY ARTIFACTS, SKINS, ETC.

5. DUE TO ABOVE CONFUSION, U.S. CUSTOMS MAY RECEIVE PROPERLY EXECUTED EXPORT PERMIT DOCUMENTS FROM ANY OR ALL OF AUTHORITIES MENTIONED PARA. 4. SAMPLE EXPORT PERMITS FROM FDA AND MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY & TRANSPORTATION BEING POUCHED TO USFWS. EXPORT PERMIT ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, CULTURAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM USUALLY IN FORM OF SIGNED LETTER GRANTING PRMISSION (WOULD LLIKELY COVER ARTIFACTS WITH APPARENT HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL VALUE). PERMIT ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SIGNATURE WILL BE THAT OF DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE) WILL PROBABLY BE THAT MOST COMMONLY RECEIVED BY U.S. CUSTOMS; SECOND MOST COMMON THT OF FDA'S WILDLIFE SECTION.

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